

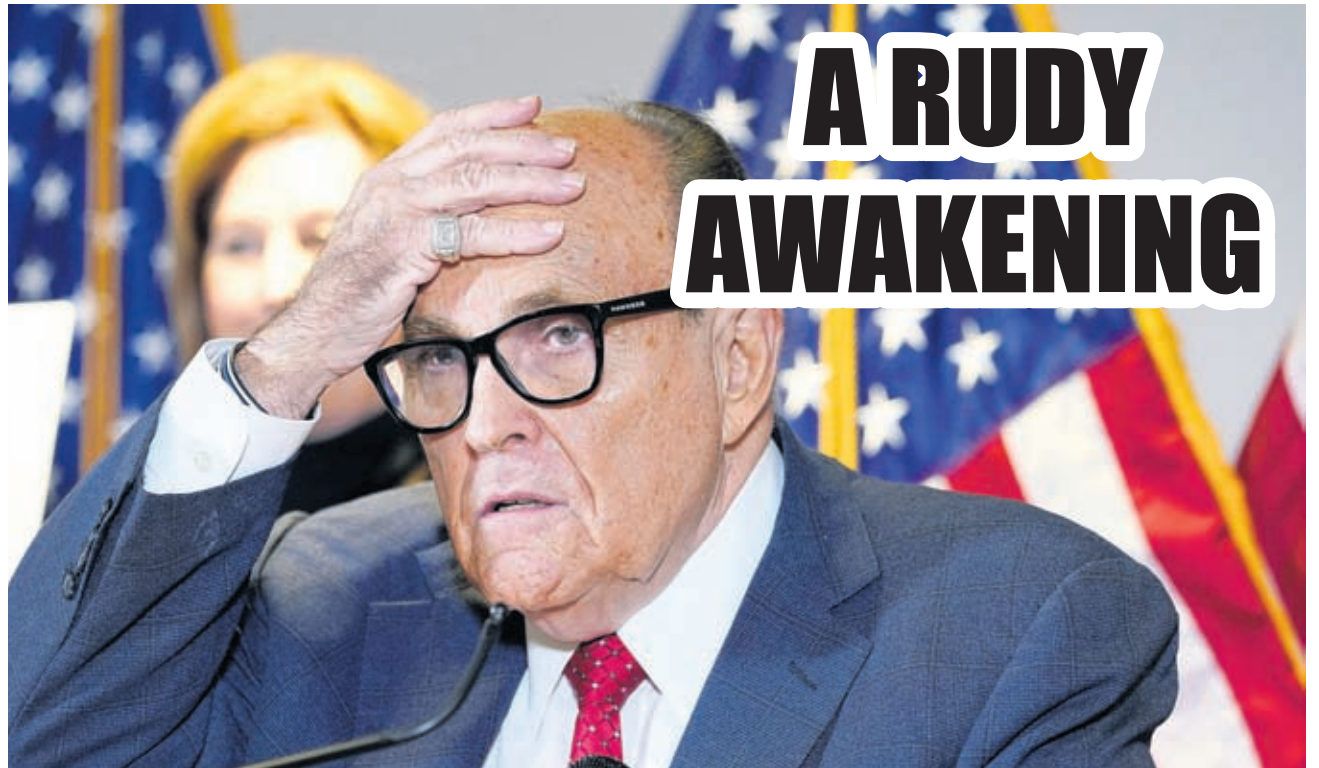
AP sources: Feds search Rudy Giuliani's NYC home, office

By M. SISAK/M. BALSAMO/E. TUCKER

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Federal agents raided Rudy Giuliani's Manhattan home and office on Wednesday, seizing computers and cellphones in a major escalation of the Justice Department's investigation into the business dealings of former President Donald Trump's personal lawyer. Giuliani, the former New York City mayor once celebrated for his leadership in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, has been under federal scrutiny for several years over his ties to Ukraine. The dual searches sent the strongest signal yet that he could eventually face federal charges. Agents searched Giuliani's home on Madison Avenue and his office on Park Avenue, people familiar with the investigation told The Associated Press. The warrants, requiring approval from the top levels of the Justice Department, signify prosecutors believe they have probable cause that Giuliani committed a federal crime — though they don't guarantee charges will materialize.

Continued on Page 2



A RUDY AWAKENING

In this Nov. 19, 2020, file photo, former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani, who was a lawyer for President Donald Trump, speaks during a news conference at the Republican National Committee headquarters in Washington.

Associated Press

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AP sources: Feds search Rudy Giuliani's NYC home, office

Continued from Front

A third search warrant was served on a phone belonging to Washington lawyer Victoria Toensing, a former federal prosecutor and close ally of Giuliani and Trump. Her law firm issued a statement saying she was informed that she is not a target of the investigation. The full scope of the investigation is unclear, but it at least partly involves Giuliani's dealings in Ukraine, law enforcement officials have told the AP.

The people discussing the searches and Wednesday's developments could not do so publicly and spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity. News of the search was first reported by The New York Times.



Traffic and pedestrians pass the apartment building where former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani resides, Wednesday, April 28, 2021, in New York.

Associated Press

In a statement released through his lawyer, Giuliani accused federal authorities of a "corrupt double standard," invoking allegations he's pushed against

prominent Democrats, and said that the Justice Department was "running rough shod over the constitutional rights of anyone involved in, or legally de-

fending, former President Donald J. Trump."

"Mr. Giuliani respects the law, and he can demonstrate that his conduct as a lawyer and a citizen was absolutely legal and ethical," the statement said.

A Justice Department spokesperson did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The U.S. Attorney's office in Manhattan and the FBI's New York office declined to comment Wednesday.

The federal probe into Giuliani's Ukraine dealings stalled last year because of a dispute over investigative tactics as Trump unsuccessfully sought a second term. Giuliani subsequently took on a leading role in disputing the election results on the Republican's behalf.

Wednesday's raids came months after Trump left office and lost his ability to pardon allies for federal crimes. The former president himself no longer enjoys the legal protections the Oval Office once provided him — though there is no indication Trump is eyed in this probe.

Many people in Trump's orbit have previously been ensnared in federal investigations, namely special counsel Robert Mueller's probe of Russian election interference. But most of those criminal cases either fizzled or fell apart. Giuliani's is different.

Giuliani was central to the then-president's efforts to dig up dirt against Democratic rival Joe Biden and to press Ukraine for an investigation into Biden and his son, Hunter — who himself now faces a criminal tax probe by the Justice Department.

Giuliani also sought to undermine former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine Marie

Yovanovitch, who was pushed out on Trump's orders, and met several times with a Ukrainian lawmaker who released edited recordings of Biden in an effort to smear him before the election.

Giuliani's lawyer, Robert Costello, said the warrants involved an allegation that Giuliani failed to register as a foreign agent and that investigative documents mentioned John Solomon, a former columnist and frequent Fox News commentator with close ties to Giuliani, who pushed baseless or unsubstantiated allegations involving Ukraine and Biden during the 2020 election.

Phone records published by House Democrats in 2019 in the wake of Trump's first impeachment trial showed frequent contacts involving Giuliani, Solomon and Lev Parnas, a Giuliani associate who is under indictment on charges of using foreign money to make illegal campaign contributions.

Contacted Wednesday, Solomon said it was news to him that the Justice Department was interested in any communications he had with Giuliani, though he said it was not entirely surprising given the issues raised in the impeachment trial.

"He was someone that tried to pass information to me. I didn't use most of it," Solomon said of Giuliani. "If they want to look at that, there's not going to be anything surprising in it." Everything was sitting "in plain view," Solomon said. He said he believed his reporting had "stood the test of time" and maintained that he was "unaware of a single factual error" in any of his stories. □



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Feds release videos of Jan. 6 riot showing police assault

By **ALANNA DURKIN RICHER**
and **COLLEEN LONG**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal authorities released videos Wednesday showing Capitol Police Officer Brian Sicknick, who died after defending the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, being attacked with a chemical spray as the pro-Trump mob descended on the building. The videos were released after media outlets, including The Associated Press, went to court to demand that they be made available to the press. The Department of Justice on Wednesday withdrew its opposition to release the videos to the media outlets.

It comes as attorneys for the two men charged in the assault on Sicknick and other officers are fighting to be released from jail while they await trial. Lawyers for George Tanios and Julian Khater told a judge during a hearing this week that the two men don't deserve to be behind bars while they fight the case.

Prosecutors at the hearing walked back their initial statements that the substance was bear spray, saying instead they now believe it was pepper spray. "This is not a premeditated, planned event," said Joseph Tacopina, an attorney for Khater who argued the



In this Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021, photo, police form a line to guard the Capitol after violent rioters stormed the Capitol, in Washington.

government was wrongly trying to paint his client to be a "felon hellbent on destroying democracy," and said that his client was being treated as though he was the most aggressive of the bunch. "Many defendants who have been charged with violent and aggressive behavior have been released without any bail at all," Tacopina argued. A lawyer for Tanios called two witnesses who said he was a law-abiding father and business owner who did not deserve to be behind bars. Attorney Beth Gross said her client is on

video trying to dissuade Khater from using any chemical irritants. A judge did not immediately decide whether to release the men and set a second hearing for early May. The footage is segmented into 10 clips and includes footage from cameras on poles and officers' body cameras. They show a close-up view of an angry mob yelling, "USA, USA!" and violently breaking past metal police barriers as officers try in vain to stop them. Khater is seen with his arm in the air, appearing to hold something,

and then Sicknick turns away from the crowd and retreats. Another officer doubles over and uses her hand to cover her eyes. Part of the body camera footage is slowed down to show the moments that Sicknick and another officer are sprayed. Other videos show Sicknick, who was wearing a blue jacket and bike helmet, on the upper terrace after the attack. Sicknick doubles over, his hands on his knees, then dumps water into his eyes. Another clip shows a different officer, her eyes shut in pain, saying she was struck

right in the face, as someone dumps water into her eyes, and she is helped aside by officers.

Tanios, of Morgantown, West Virginia, and Khater, of State College, Pennsylvania, haven't been charged in Sicknick's death.

The Washington medical examiner's office this month found that Sicknick suffered a stroke and died from natural causes. The determination is likely to significantly inhibit the ability of federal prosecutors to bring homicide charges.

Prosecutors say before the attack Khater told Tanios, "Give me that bear s—" and reached into Tanios' backpack. Tanios told Khater "not yet" because it was "still early," but Khater responded that "they just f---ing sprayed me." Khater was then seen holding a can of chemical spray, prosecutors say.

A prosecutor said during the hearing this week that it was likely Mace — not bear spray — that was sprayed at the officers.

Investigators initially believed Sicknick was hit in the head with a fire extinguisher, based on statements collected early in the investigation. And they later thought the 42-year-old Sicknick may have ingested a chemical substance that contributed to his death. □

Associated Press

U.S. will pay \$44 million in age-bias case by ex-FAA workers

By **DAVID KOENIG**
AP Airlines Writer

The U.S. government will pay nearly \$44 million to settle an age-discrimination case filed 16 years ago on behalf of hundreds of workers who missed out on federal pensions after their jobs were outsourced. Lawyers for the 761 workers say the Federal Aviation Administration and the Transportation Department decided to outsource the jobs because many of the employees were older than 40 and were, or soon would, become eligible to retire with full federal retirement benefits. They worked as flight service specialists — air traffic

controllers who give pilots of private planes information about weather, routes and emergency help. In 2005, the FAA gave Lockheed Martin a contract to run the specialists' flight service stations in every state except Alaska. By an act of Congress, about 100 specialists who were within two years of retirement were allowed to stay at FAA and keep their pensions, but 1,900 others, most of them over the age of 40, moved to Lockheed. Some of them sued. In a \$43.8 million settlement announced Wednesday, 25 individuals will get enough service credit to qualify for an air traffic con-

troller's retirement. The others will get enough to cover lost retirement benefits from 2016 through 2020, according to the agreement. "We hope this will be a cautionary reminder to federal employers and other employers that, as we have an increasingly aged workforce, employers should be extra careful to avoid making personnel decisions like layoffs because of age," said Joseph Sellers, lead attorney for the workers. Kate Breen was 45 and president of the union when the flight service specialists' work was sent to Lockheed, where there were no pensions, just a 401(k) savings



In this March 24, 2011, file photo, a passenger jet flies past the FAA control tower at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport in Arlington, Va.

Associated Press

plan, and where their service time in the government didn't count. She said she quit Lockheed after a year and a half and took

part-time jobs at the postal service and the Transportation Security Administration before landing a different job back at FAA. □

Florida lawmakers move to punish social media companies

BOBBY CAINA CALVAN

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) —

Social media companies faced the wrath of Florida Republicans as lawmakers were poised Wednesday to send legislation to the governor as part of a campaign to punish online platforms who some lawmakers say discriminate against conservative thought.

It was another key legislative victory for Gov. Ron DeSantis, who urged lawmakers to deliver the legislation for his signature as part of his campaign to reign in Big Tech companies — in how Big Data handles the information they collect from consumers and in how social media platforms treat their users.

"Let's send a message to these Big Tech monopolies that Florida will no longer stand for their shenanigans," said Rep. Blaise Ingoglia. Democrats invoked the name of former President Donald Trump in dismissing the effort as a partisan effort to curry favor with the Republican base. "This bill is a retaliation for the former presidential administration being banned from social media sites by spreading false information, inciting riots, sedition, and violence," said Rep. Anna Eskamani, a Demo-



Florida Rep. Anna V. Eskamani speaks during a legislative session, Wednesday, April 28, 2021, at the Capitol in Tallahassee, Fla.

crat who sought to kill the effort in her chamber.

The bill was filed after Twitter permanently suspended the account of Trump — a strong ally of the governor — after Trump's supporters stormed the U.S. Capitol. The social media giant had muted some of Trump's post because of concerns that his tweets would foment further violence.

DeSantis is a strong ally of the former president, and the Republican governor is supporting hefty financial penalties against social

media platforms that suspend the accounts of political candidates.

The bill that had won approval by the House would fine companies \$250,000 a day for doing so.

The Republican governor launched his offensive against social media companies in February when he accused platforms like Facebook and Twitter of censoring conservative ideology. And he called on lawmakers to punish social media companies who suspend the accounts of peo-

ple running for office.

The effort did not come without drama. It appeared to have died earlier Wednesday when an accompanying bill failed. But Republican leaders managed to get the bill reconsidered and it narrowly won passage.

Social media platforms have become modern-day public squares, and Republicans accuse social media companies of censoring conservative thought by removing posts companies consider inflammatory

or using algorithms that reduce the visibility of posts that go against the grain of mainstream ideas.

The First Amendment was central to the arguments of supporters and critics alike. "If you vote against this bill, you're voting against freedom of speech, you're voting against equal protection, you're voting for censorship," Rep. Thad Altman said in support of the measure. "We have evil people trying to silence our voice." Opponents defended the right of social media companies, as private entities, to control the flow of information on their platforms.

The social media proposals will have to return to the Senate for final consideration before it can head to the governor for his signature. The broader effort is to regulate how technology interacts with people's daily lives. A separate package of bills dealing with consumer privacy is expected to be up for final consideration by the Florida Senate on Thursday. The legislation would limit how businesses collect and use the information they harvest from people's activities, including where they eat and shop, what they read and post online and other information archived by Big Data. □

Associated Press

Connecticut is 6th state to end religious vaccine exemption



In this April 27, 2021 file photo, opponents of a bill to repeal Connecticut's religious exemption for required school vaccinations march down Capitol Avenue before the State Senate voted on legislation, in Hartford, Conn.

Associated Press

By SUSAN HAIGH

Associated Press

Connecticut will no longer allow religious exemption from childhood immuni-

zation requirements for schools and day care facilities, becoming the sixth state to end that policy.

The legislation, signed into

law Wednesday by Gov. Ned Lamont, came hours after the Democratic-controlled Senate passed the bill late Tuesday night. Over 2,000 opponents had rallied outside the state Capitol building, arguing the legislation unfairly infringes on their religious liberties and parental rights.

"Proud to sign this bill into law to protect as many of our school children as possible from infectious diseases as we can," Lamont said in a tweet, announcing he has signed the contentious bill.

The other states that have ended religious exemptions for vaccines are California, New York, West Virginia, Mississippi and Maine, according to proponents.

The state's medical exemption will remain in place. The legislation affects the 2022-23 school year and grandfathers in any students in kindergarten and older with an existing religious exemption.

Proponents argued that eliminating the exemption will help prevent potential outbreaks of illnesses like measles. They cited a slow and steady increase in the number of religious exemptions for childhood vaccinations and declining vaccination rates in some schools.

Critics have said they intend to challenge the law in court, arguing it's an infringement of their religious liberties and parental rights. The organization Connecti-

cut Freedom Alliance, which helped to organize Tuesday's protest at the Capitol, accused Lamont and lawmakers who supported the legislation of "forcing parents out of the workforce" by giving them no other choice but to homeschool their children. Lamont said he spent a lot of time researching the issue.

"When it comes to the safety of our children, we need to take an abundance of caution," he said in a statement. "This legislation is needed to protect our kids against serious illnesses that have been well-controlled for many decades, such as measles, tuberculosis, and whooping cough, but have reemerged." □

U.S. Navy fires warning shots in new tense encounter with Iran

By JON GAMBRELL

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — An American warship fired warning shots when vessels of Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard came too close to a patrol in the Persian Gulf, the U.S. Navy said Wednesday. It was the first such shooting in nearly four years.

The Navy released black-and-white footage of the encounter Monday night in international waters of the northern reaches of the Persian Gulf near Kuwait, Iran, Iraq and Saudi Arabia. In it, lights can be seen in the distance and what appears to be a single gunshot can be heard, with a tracer round racing across the top of the water.

Iran did not immediately acknowledge the incident. The Navy said the Cyclone-class patrol ship USS Firebolt fired the warning shots after three fast-attack Guard vessels came within 68 yards (62 meters) of it and the U.S. Coast Guard patrol boat USCGC Baranoff.

"The U.S. crews issued multiple warnings via bridge-to-bridge radio and loud-hailer devices, but the (Guard) vessels continued their close range maneuvers," said Cmdr. Rebecca



This April 14, 2020, file photo provided by the U.S. Army shows the USS Firebolt in Manama, Bahrain. Associated Press

Rebarich, a spokeswoman for the Mideast-based 5th Fleet. "The crew of Firebolt then fired warning shots, and the (Guard) vessels moved away to a safe distance from the U.S. vessels." She called on the Guard to "operate with due regard for the safety of all vessels as required by international law."

"U.S. naval forces continue to remain vigilant and are trained to act in a professional manner, while our commanding officers retain the inherent right to act

in self-defense," she said. The last time a Navy vessel fired warning shots in the Persian Gulf in an incident involving Iran was in July 2017, when the USS Thunderbolt, a sister ship to the Firebolt, fired to warn off a Guard vessel. Regulations issued last year give Navy commanders the authority to take "lawful defensive measures" against vessels in the Mideast that come within 100 meters (yards) of their warships.

While 100 meters may seem far to someone standing

at a distance, it's incredibly close for large warships that have difficulty in turning quickly, like aircraft carriers. Even smaller vessels can collide with each other at sea, risking the ships.

The incident Monday marked the second time the Navy accused the Guard of operating in an "unsafe and unprofessional" manner this month alone after tense encounters between the forces had dropped in recent years. Footage released Tuesday by the Navy showed

a ship commanded by the Guard cut in front of the USCGC Monomoy, causing the Coast Guard vessel to come to an abrupt stop with its engine smoking on April 2.

The Guard also did the same with another Coast Guard vessel, the USCGC Wrangell, Rebarich said.

The interaction marked the first "unsafe and unprofessional" incident involving the Iranians since April 15, 2020, Rebarich said. However, Iran had largely stopped such incidents in 2018 and nearly in the entirety of 2019, she said.

In 2017, the Navy recorded 14 instances of what it describes as "unsafe and or unprofessional" interactions with Iranians forces. It recorded 35 in 2016, and 23 in 2015.

The incidents at sea almost always involve the Revolutionary Guard, which reports only to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Typically, they involve Iranian speedboats armed with deck-mounted machine guns and rocket launchers test-firing weapons or shadowing American aircraft carriers passing through the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf through which 20% of all oil passes. □

Russian minister: U.S.-Russia ties worse than during Cold War

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV
Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia's top diplomat said Wednesday that relations with the United States are

now even worse than during Cold War times because of a lack of mutual respect.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Mos-

cow stands ready to normalize ties with Washington but that the U.S. should stop posturing like a "sovereign" while rallying its allies against Russia and China.

Lavrov said if the U.S. shuns a mutually respectful dialogue on the basis of a balance of interests, "we would live in conditions of a Cold War or worse."

"During the Cold War, the tensions were flying high, and risky crisis situations often emerged, but there was also a mutual respect," Lavrov said in a Russian state television interview. "It seems to me there is a deficit of it now." Earlier this month, the Biden administration slapped Russia with sanctions for

interfering in the 2020 U.S. presidential election and for involvement in the SolarWind hack of federal agencies — activities Moscow has denied.

The U.S. ordered 10 Russian diplomats expelled, targeted dozens of companies and people and imposed new curbs on Russia's ability to borrow money. While ordering the sanctions, U.S. President Joe Biden also called for de-escalating tensions and held the door open for cooperation with Russia in certain areas. Russia quickly retaliated by ordering 10 U.S. diplomats to leave, blacklisting eight current and former U.S. officials and tightening requirements for U.S. Embassy operations.

As part of the restrictions, Russia moved to ban the U.S. Embassy and its consulates from hiring Russian citizens and third country nationals. Similar bans would also be applied to other nations designated as "unfriendly."

Lavrov said Wednesday that a list of those countries will be published soon to formalize the decision. Speaking in the interview with a Russian state TV host, Lavrov noted that Moscow has had a "positive" attitude to Biden's proposal to hold a summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin, but added that Russia still needs to analyze all aspects of the initiative. □



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov speaks during a joint news conference with Mexican Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard following their talks in Moscow, Russia, Wednesday, April 28, 2021.

Associated Press

China criticizes Japan over Fukushima treated water release

BEIJING (AP) — China renewed its criticism on Wednesday of Japan's decision to release treated radioactive water from the wrecked Fukushima nuclear plant into the Pacific Ocean.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian called the decision to begin releasing the water in about two years a money-saving measure that is "extremely irresponsible."

Zhao also rejected Japanese complaints over a tweet he earlier sent criticizing Japan's decision with a picture of a famous Japanese print of a massive wave, saying it was hypocritical of Japan not to allow others to criticize when it had failed to consider the concerns of its neighbors.

"Certain Japanese officials have been playing deaf and dumb. Then why are they so angry about this image?" Zhao said at a daily briefing. "The Japanese side should recognize its responsibility, fulfill its international obligations and revoke its wrong decision." Japanese Foreign Minister



In this Sunday, Aug. 18, 2013, file photo, a Japanese Coast Guard boat and vessel sail alongside Japanese activists' fishing boat, not in photo, warning the activists away from a group of disputed islands called Senkaku by Japan and Diaoyu by China.

Toshimitsu Motegi on Tuesday said Japan had protested and demanded removal of the tweet. Ministry spokesman Tomoyuki Yoshida on Wednesday said the tweet lacked scientific basis.

"Contrary to Japan's sincere effort to respond to the international society

with high levels of transparency, (the tweet) is not based on any scientific evidence whatsoever, it is one-sided and it incites emotions, and it is extremely regrettable," he said.

Japan's decision had long been anticipated, but was delayed by safety concerns and protests. Cabi-

net ministers endorsed it as the best option, though it is fiercely opposed by fishermen, residents and Japan's neighbors. The water has been used to cool melted fuel at the nuclear plant damaged by a massive 2011 earthquake and tsunami, but the tanks where it is being stored will be full

next year.

Also Wednesday, Japan said its military has raised caution levels around uninhabited East China Sea islands that it controls but are also claimed by Beijing after six Chinese warships passed near the area and a reconnaissance helicopter flew toward it.

Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Katsunobu Kato told reporters that the Maritime Self-Defense Force confirmed that a Chinese fleet of six warships led by the aircraft carrier Liaoning and including guided missile destroyers and a frigate sailed northward between Okinawa and the nearby island of Miyako to enter the East China Sea.

On Tuesday, the Japanese navy spotted a Chinese helicopter that took off from the Liaoning and flew within 50-100 kilometers (30-60 miles) of the islands, prompting Air Self-Defense Force fighter jets to scramble, Kato said.

The islands, called Senkaku in Japan and Diaoyu in China, are also claimed by Taiwan. □

Associated Press

Myanmar airstrikes on ethnic forces reported on 2 fronts

BANGKOK (AP) — Myanmar government forces launched airstrikes against ethnic minority guerrillas in two areas of the country on Wednesday, local reports said.

Fighting has been raging daily in northern Myanmar in territory controlled by the Kachin Independence Organization, representing the Kachin minority, and in the east by the Karen National Union, representing the Karen.

Both groups have struck alliances with the popular movement opposing the military junta that seized power in the country in February after ousting the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi.

Generally non-violent marches against military rule continue in many cities and towns, despite the

security forces' use of lethal force to stop them. The Kachin and the Karen have been struggling for decades for greater autonomy from the central government and have their own well-armed and trained military units, whose help the protest movement has been seeking to counter the government's armed might.

Col. Naw Bu, a Kachin spokesman, said fighting against the junta's forces intensified Wednesday, reported 74 Media, an online news service in Kachin state. It quoted him as saying that since Tuesday, the government has used heavy artillery and fighter jets to attack a Kachin position at the foot of Alaw Bum mountain. The position had been a government outpost but was seized by

the Kachin on March 25. Naw Bu said heavy fighting has been continuing in the area for five days, causing most civilians to flee. According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, clashes between the two sides have escalated since mid-March, with almost 50 armed confrontations. It said both sides have used mortar shelling.

In eastern Myanmar, government aircraft continued to carry out airstrikes in Karen state on Wednesday, according to aid groups active in the area, a day after Karen guerrillas overran an army base on the banks of the Salween river dividing Myanmar and Thailand.

Both the Karen Peace Support Network and the Free Burma Rangers confirmed



In this March 30, 2021, file photo, Myanmar soldiers stand at a small army camp along the river bank near the border of Myanmar and Thailand.

Associated Press

a total of six air attacks involving jets and helicopters. They said there were no known casualties but the Peace Support Network said about 300 villagers fled across the border. There also were air attacks on Tuesday just hours after the Karen seized the riverside base.

The latest wave of airstrikes increased fears that more villagers will abandon their

homes in vulnerable areas, with many likely to try to cross into Thailand.

Fighting between the Karen and the Myanmar military has been intense since February. Myanmar jets have bombed and strafed Karen villages since March 27, and its army has deployed new battalions to the area in possible preparation for a large-scale offensive. □

Guests flock to Dutch cafe terraces as lockdown eases

By MIKE CORDER
Associated Press

UTRECHT, Netherlands (AP)

— Lisa Gerritsen and Eva Diks were the first guests in six months to be served at Cafe Le Journal on The Neude square in the Dutch city of Utrecht on Wednesday. First in a long line waiting to be seated, they chose a table in the sun, ordered a bottle of rose wine and glasses of water and were planning to make a day of it. "We've waited so long. We were here at 11 o'clock. Fantastic," said Gerritsen, a 19-year-old student. "We plan to stay here until 6 p.m." The Netherlands on Wednesday became the latest European country to begin cautiously relaxing its lockdown even as infection rates and intensive care occupancy remain stubbornly high. The Dutch follow Italy, Greece, France and other European nations in moving to reopen society and edge away from economically crippling lockdowns in the coming weeks. A curfew that sparked rioting when it was introduced



Pamela Kuijper-Hartman and Sven Hartman, newlyweds, and others wait to be seated as terraces opened at midday in Utrecht, Netherlands, Wednesday, April 28, 2021.

Associated Press

nationwide in January was lifted and shoppers were allowed to visit nonessential stores without making an appointment first, though numbers were limited. Bars and cafes were allowed to reopen their outdoor terraces for the first time in six months, but some owners weren't happy with

the conditions they say will make it near impossible to turn a profit.

The terraces are only allowed to open between midday and 6 p.m. for a maximum of two socially distanced people per table unless they are from the same household.

Alex Celik, owner of the Il

Pozzo Italian restaurant on the Old Canal that runs through downtown Utrecht, lamented that he has to close just when Dutch customers want to sit down for an evening meal.

"Midday to 6 p.m. is nothing for the hospitality industry," he said. "Closing at 6 p.m. people will take food

and go to the park. It won't work so well. It would have been much better if we could open until 8 o'clock." He showed a recent photo he snapped during lockdown of around 250 people eating and drinking along the canal where he is now only allowed to accept 50 customers.

His comments echoed the country's hospitality lobby group, which has criticized the opening hours, saying guests will leave terraces and move elsewhere, making it more difficult to ensure they stick to social distancing and hygiene rules. The country's public health institute reported Tuesday that infections edged higher over the last week to just over 55,000 while hospital admissions declined very slightly. More than 17,000 people are confirmed to have died of COVID-19 in the Netherlands.

After being the last European Union nation to begin its vaccination campaign, the Netherlands, a nation of about 17.4 million people, has now administered around 5.3 million shots. □

South Africa's Ramaphosa says corruption has damaged country

By MOGOMOTSI MAGOME
and ANDREW MELDRUM
Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP)

— Rampant corruption has seriously damaged South Africa's economy and people's trust in the government, President

Cyril Ramaphosa testified Wednesday at a judicial inquiry into graft in the country.

Ramaphosa was speaking at the commission investigating "state capture," the term for the corruption under former

President Jacob Zuma's tenure in which his associates in the Gupta family allegedly won control of the much of the state and its finances.

"State capture and corruption have taken a great toll on our society and indeed on our economy as well," Ramaphosa said. "They have eroded the values of our constitution and undermines the rule of law. If allowed to continue they would threaten the achievement of growth, development and transformation of our country."

Ramaphosa spoke at the commission to investigate corruption during Zuma's time as president from 2009 until 2018, when he was forced out of office by widespread allegations of graft. □



South African President, Cyril Ramaphosa takes off his face mask as he appears on behalf of the ruling African National Congress (ANC) party at the Zondo Commission of Inquiry into State Capture, in Johannesburg, South Africa, Wednesday, April 28, 2021.

Associated Press

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Travellers' Choice 2020

Aruba Recognized for Environmental and Recovery Efforts on Global Stage Panelist Ewald Biemans lauds Aruba at World Travel & Tourism Council Global Summit 2021

EAGLE BEACH – The return to travel is under way with sage advice from the world's trusted hospitality experts at the World Travel & Tourism Council's Global Summit 2021. Ewald Biemans, owner and CEO of Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort in Eagle Beach, Aruba, spoke on the mainstage session yesterday as a panelist.

The World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTTC) themed this year's event "Uniting the World for Recovery" for its 20th Global Summit. Taking place April 25-27 in Cancun, Mexico, the highest-level industry leaders are meeting with key government representatives to take action on the biggest and most important issues across the international agenda. This year, the Global Summit is exploring challenges ahead and providing a platform for the recovery of the sector. Yesterday's panel was "Travel in the Fast Lane: Safe & Seamless Travel." The discussion centered on current sentiment that 45% of passengers are ready to discard their paper passports and use biometric identification instead. Digital identity and biometric identification are rapidly rising in importance. This is combined with an acceleration of innovations in health and safety, ranging from thermal imaging to electrostatic sprays. As the sector redoubles its efforts to provide a safe and seamless traveler experience to rebuild traveler confidence, discussion focused on new health requirements and



integrate testing ahead of a vaccine, while ultimately moving towards a contactless traveler journey. The discussion was moderated by Peter Greenberg, the travel editor for U.S.-based CBS News. Panelists shared their in-depth experience and views. The panel included:

- Ewald Biemans, Owner/CEO, Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort, Aruba
- Sean Donohue, Chief Executive Officer, Dallas Fort Worth International Airport
- Kelly Craighead, President & Chief Executive Officer, CLIA
- Jose Ricardo Botelho, Chief Executive Officer & Executive Director, ALTA
- Andrew Wingrove, General Manager, Aviation, CLEAR

Introduced as conquering the ambitious achievement of CarbonNeutral® certification for his own Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort, Biemans elaborated on Aruba's success in providing a seamless, healthy,

quick and forward-thinking environment to provide a safe place for travel and tourism. Moderator Peter Greenberg recounted his visit to Aruba years ago and discussions with the Aruban government about becoming carbon neu-

tral. Biemans recounted the challenges and how the government has overcome them to renew their commitment and plans to become free of fossil fuel dependency by 2030 and carbon neutral by 2050. □

Gold Medals for Kyra Hoevertsz at the 2021 US National Artistic Swimming Championships



ORANJESTAD — Aruban athlete, Kyra Hoevertsz, conquered two golden medals at the 2021 US National Artistic Swimming Championships at Mesa, Arizona.

Guided by national coach Chihiro Ishii, Kyra who competed under the category of Senior as Solo technical and Solo free, was able to score very high on the first day of competition. At the Solo technical Kyra obtained a score of 77.2931 which was the highest score in that category which gave her the golden medal. In the Solo free prelims Kyra once again obtained the highest score, which was 78.8917. On final day Kyra competed against 7 other athletes and was able to win again and win the golden medal. This is a historical event of Kyra and for Aruba off course.

Congratulations Kyra! □

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Cooperation Agreement signed between all Caribbean Airports within Kingdom of the Netherlands

ORANJESTAD — During a virtual ceremony on April 28, 2021, the CEO's / Managing Directors of all six commercial Airports of the Dutch Caribbean signed a Cooperation Agreement that formalized the "Dutch Caribbean Cooperation of Airports" (DCCA).

DCCA's objective is to improve the general quality of each individual airport by facilitating mutual assistance and efficient exchange of information, transfer of knowledge, sharing of expertise with the goal of achieving economies of scale on seven key elements including but not limited to innovation, sustainability, regulations, safety and security, health challenges for Airports, emergency assistance/response, economical sustainable, stable and affordable air connections and maintenance, infrastructure and project management.

In these current times of crisis, during which each airport faces significant challenges, the CEOs and Managing Directors of the Airports of Saba, Sint Eustatius, Sint Maarten, Bonaire, Curacao and Aruba have each expressed that this gives even more significance to this historical event and all look forward to achieving above objective through mutual assistance and collaboration. During the signing ceremony the CEO's and Managing Directors have also expressed their commitment to start working on a road map with the objective to make the Caribbean region a front runner in testing and stimulating electric flying as the next generation in aviation. □

The contact details of DCCA will be:

DCCA Advisor & Point of contact Angeline Flemming E-mail: a.flemming@airportaruba.com



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180 exclusive properties will be built suitable for everyone's wishes. The buildings varies greatly in layout and offers amazing views. You can choose from 2 or 3-story villas with a private pool and a rooftop terrace, condominiums, townhouses. Tuscany Residence Aruba enjoys an abundance of luxury amenities and services. Soon a new concept consisting of 18, 1 and 2- story water villas. Everything is aimed at providing homeowners and holiday makers of Tuscany Residence Aruba with a relaxing stay.

Dutch design

Tuscany Residence Aruba is a residence that is currently being built and will develop in the coming years into a luxury residential resort with various types of homes and many amenities such as swimming pools, restaurant, bar, offices, meeting rooms, gym, wellness and more. The combination of the beautiful Dutch modern international architecture and the Aruban palm trees creates a luxurious Aruban feeling and relaxed atmosphere in this resort. Tuscany Residence Aruba is the perfect choice for couples and families. Bas de Groot, Managing Director of Tuscany Residence Aruba adds, "We differ from traditional building, our design distinguishes itself." At 8 minutes' walk from Palm Beach, designed in a European style with high-quality materials, on property land and with buying possibilities from condos to townhouses to villas, Tuscany Residence is a dream comes true. "We just completed the community pool and the first villa. Eight townhouses are ready and three are still available. There is lots to see, you are invited. Our quality will convince you."

We take care of it all

De Groot adds, "Our project is in continuous construction which builds confidence. Aside of the town houses and villa you can see the community pool now, providing you with the idea of style and quality of our residence." He continues saying that maintenance, property management, rental program and safety are taken care of. "You can log in from abroad and manage your property for rental or view your administration." The great thing about Tuscany is that it offers everything equal to a resort but you do not need to wait for an elevator to bring you up, worry about parking space or noisy neighbors. "We have got space and different size offerings making this more a community feel rather than a packed condo building." He also emphasizes that the location is one of the best on Aruba as it is quiet and close to Palm Beach.

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How to travel safely and cheaply this summer

By **SAM KEMMIS** of Nerd-Wallet

As vaccination rates inch upward, Americans are beginning to travel again. More than 10 times as many passengers passed through Transportation Security Administration screenings in the first week of April compared with the same period last year, a sign that some degree of normalcy is returning.

And travel this summer could get far busier.

"Right now, we're still awash in cheap summer flights," says Scott Keyes, founder of travel deals newsletter Scott's Cheap Flights. "But with vaccinations accelerating quickly and interest in travel spiking, cheap summer flights may not be available much longer."

Yet the question of whether it's safe to travel remains. Infection rates remain high, despite accelerating vaccination efforts. Even vaccinated individuals are realizing that they may not be in the clear to return to life and travel as normal.

HOW TO TRAVEL SAFELY

Getting fully vaccinated is the first step toward travel safety, but it's not the last. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have issued updated guidelines for vaccinated travelers, giving the go-ahead to domestic travel. Yet it still recommends following the familiar protective protocols: wearing a



In this Oct. 14, 2020 file photo, travelers walk through Terminal 1 at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago.

mask, maintaining social distance and avoiding crowds. "Even with a vaccine, the fundamentals of COVID-19 still apply," Dr. Jessica Shepherd, chief medical officer of Verywell, an online health website, said in an email. "With travel, only the scenery changes, not the reality. As we move towards more of a normal life, it is important to approach it carefully rather than abruptly in lifestyle changes." If the CDC recommends maintaining social distance, is it safe to fly at all? "This risk of transmission in airplanes is relatively low as the airflow in current jet airliners is much faster than normal indoor build-

ings and half of it is fresh air from outside," she said.

HOW TO TRAVEL CHEAPLY

Although many factors will affect the cost of your potential vacation, one looms especially large: timing.

"I'd start booking as soon as possible," says Matthew Kepnes, founder of Nomadic Matt, a budget travel website. "There's a lot of deals out there right now, but they won't last long ... so my advice is to book soon."

This strategy also takes advantage of a seismic shift in airline policies.

"Many travelers may have missed the fact that all full-service U.S. airlines have permanently gotten rid of

change fees if you book a ticket in main economy, premium economy or business/first class," Keyes says. Aside from basic economy, most fares are now far more flexible than before the pandemic. This creates an incentive to book sooner, then rebook if plans fall through. Experts also recommend looking for deals, rather than trying to travel to popular (and expensive) destinations. Average airfares might rise, but deals will remain if you hunt for them. Then, there are always travel rewards, which have been piling up in many accounts throughout the pandemic and can offset the costs of travel but

only if you use them.

WHERE TO TRAVEL

Before you book a flight overseas, know that most countries are still enforcing restrictions on U.S. travelers and that the CDC and State Department have issued blanket "do not travel" advisories for most countries worldwide, even for vaccinated travelers. That doesn't mean international travel is off the table, but it does limit the options.

"There are countries like Mexico and Costa Rica where Americans can visit today without any COVID prerequisites like testing or quarantine," Keyes says.

"(And) there are a growing number of countries like Iceland and Belize that allow fully vaccinated Americans to bypass any testing or quarantine requirements that are mandatory for unvaccinated visitors." And many countries remain fully off-limits to U.S. travelers for the foreseeable future. Even countries that are allowing tourists, visitors are still subject to local restrictions and curfews. Do your research beforehand to make sure you can enjoy your destination once you get there.

The U.S. will still require a negative COVID-19 test three days or less before your return flight. So even if you are vaccinated, you will need to spend time at the end of your trip obtaining a negative test. □

Associated Press

Govt. expands refinancing options for low-income homeowners

By **SARAH SKIDMORE SELL**
AP Personal Finance Writer

The Federal Housing Finance Agency on Wednesday announced a new refinance option for certain low-income borrowers, helping them take advantage of low interest rates and save money each month.

"Last year saw a spike in refinances, but more than 2 million low-income families did not take advantage of the record low mortgage rates by refinancing," said FHFA Director Mark Calabria. "This new refinance option is designed

to help eligible borrowers who have not already refinanced save between \$1,200 and \$3,000 a year



In this June 9, 2020, file photo, Federal Housing Finance Agency Director Mark Calabria testifies before a Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press

on their mortgage payment."

To qualify, borrowers must have a Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac backed loan, for a single family home that they reside in. Their income must be at or below 80% of the median income for their area. And their loan needs to be in generally good standing with no missed a payment in the past six months and no more than one missed payment in the past 12 months.

While there are other requirements for the credit profile, it is designed to

ease the process to allow more borrowers qualify. The cost and credit requirements can keep some lower-income borrowers from seeking refinancing. This new option will ease some of the cost, such as a credit worth up to \$500 for an appraisal. FHFA, which oversees Fannie and Freddie, estimates the refinancing option could save borrowers an average of \$100 to \$250 a month. The new refinance option will be available to eligible borrowers beginning this summer. □

'Fetal heartbeat' in abortion laws taps emotion, not science

By **JULIE CARR SMYTH and KIMBERLEE KRUESI**

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) —

Dr. Michael Cackovic has treated his share of pregnant women. So when Republican lawmakers across the U.S. began passing bans on abortion at what they term "the first detectable fetal heartbeat," he was exasperated.

That's because at the point where advanced technology can detect that first flutter, as early as six weeks, the embryo isn't yet a fetus and it doesn't have a heart.

"You cannot hear this 'flutter,' it is only seen on ultrasound," said Cackovic, a maternal fetal medicine specialist at Ohio State University's Wexner Medical Center, where some 5,300 babies are born each year. Yet bans pegged to the "fetal heartbeat" concept have been signed into law in 13 states, including Cackovic's home state of Ohio.

None has taken effect, with all but the most recently enacted being struck down or temporarily blocked by the courts. Now, one of the most restrictive, signed by Tennessee's Republican Gov. Bill Lee last year, goes before the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Thursday.

Proponents of these so-called "heartbeat bills" are hoping for a legal challenge to eventually reach the U.S. Supreme Court, where they look for the conservative coalition assembled under President Donald Trump to end the constitutional right to abortion protected under the high court's landmark 1973 *Roe v. Wade* ruling.

The notion that abortion as early as six weeks into pregnancy "stops a beating heart" was arguably the stroke of political genius that eventually helped the measures rise above persistent constitutional concerns in the states that have backed them.

The concept's originator, Ohio anti-abortion activist Janet Folger Porter, spoke openly about her strategy in an email to supporters

last year deftly side-stepping whether the packaging of the bill was medically true.

"The slogan, 'Abortion stops

who co-directs its Family Health Law and Policy Institute, said the anti-abortion lobby's marketing of "heartbeat bill" legislation

describe what is medically called intact dilation and extraction.

Abortion rights groups dub heartbeat laws "six-week

cal terms to describe what happens in pregnancy as a political tactic of its own.

The hosts of CareCast, a podcast sponsored by the anti-abortion nonprofit Care Net, called out news outlets last year for using terms such as "pulsing" or "fetal cardiac activity" rather than "heartbeat," accusing them of employing "euphemisms" and "verbal gymnastics" in order to dehumanize the unborn.

"They are literally inventing new ways of talking about a heartbeat so that they can try to avoid giving any sort of human attributes to the fetus," said Vincent DiCaro, the group's chief outreach officer. President and CEO Roland Warren asserted that abortion rights groups use medical terms so they can "maximize the atrocity" against human life. He equated it to the Nazis' dehumanization of the Jews.

Culhane said vague or imprecise language could be a powerful argument against "heartbeat laws" in the courts should the battle ever advance beyond the laws' impacts on a woman's constitutional right to abortion.

"These days, courts are really vigilant about looking at statutes to make sure that they provide notice about what conduct exactly is prohibited," the Widener University law professor said.

"Because we don't want people to have to guess and then find that they're on the wrong side of the law." □



In this Feb. 14, 2012, file photo, Janet Folger Porter, president and founder of Faith 2 Action, posts signs during a news conference at the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus, Ohio.

Associated Press

a beating heart,' has long been an effective way to highlight the injustice and inhumanity of abortion," Porter wrote of the state's law, the Ohio Heartbeat Protection Act.

And, she found, hearts were easy to market.

During the decade-long battle to pass Ohio's law, Porter punctuated her lobbying efforts with heart-shaped balloons and teddy bears. She urged supporters to "take heart" when faced with obstacles and beseeched lawmakers to "have a heart" and vote "yes" despite their constitutional concerns.

Then Republican Gov. John Kasich twice vetoed the Ohio "heartbeat bill," citing constitutional issues. His GOP successor, Gov. Mike DeWine, signed it in 2019 amid a flurry of similar bills that year.

For now, abortion remains legal in all 50 states, though 43 have some form of restriction on the procedure after a fetus becomes viable outside the womb, generally between 24 and 28 weeks.

John Culhane, a law professor at Widener University

is "all an attempt to make a fetus into a person."

"The 'heartbeat,' it literally tugs at the heartstrings, it makes you feel like, 'Why would you do this?' Never mind that there's not a heart" yet in the embryo, he said.

However, attorneys are quick to point out that medical inaccuracy is not a legal argument.

"Legislatures are free to define things any way they want and give it the force of law," said Andrew Koppelman, a law professor at Northwestern University. "The reality of medical science is not a constraint on what a legislature can do. What is a constraint on what a legislature can do are the constitutional rights of women."

In the war of words over abortion, however, battles have erupted before over politically charged, inaccurate or vague terminology used in abortion laws.

"Dismemberment abortion" is a term abortion opponents use to describe dilation and evacuation, a common second trimester abortion method. They use "partial-birth abortion" to

abortion bans," though the bills don't mention such a duration.

"It is very common to use non-medical language to publicly talk about a medical procedure," said David Cohen, professor of law at Drexel University's Kline School of Law.

"The law needs precision in order to know exactly what is being regulated," Cohen said. "So in medicine it would be by using medical terminology."

Cackovic, the fetal medicine specialist, said the current "heartbeat laws," are based only on "our amazing technological advances" that allow detection of the earliest signs of embryonic cardiac activity, "and nothing else."

A pioneering 2013 University of Leeds study, for example, found that while four clearly defined chambers appear in the human heart from the eighth week of pregnancy, they remain "a disorganized jumble of tissue" until around the 20th week, much later than previously expected.

Abortion opponents don't see it that way, viewing the use of antiseptic medi-

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Girl Scout cookies take flight in Virginia drone deliveries

By **MATT O'BRIEN**
AP Technology Writer

Missing out on Thin Mints in the pandemic? A Google affiliate is using drones to deliver Girl Scout cookies to people's doorsteps in a Virginia community. The town of Christiansburg has been a testing ground for commercial delivery drones operated by Wing, a subsidiary of Google's corporate parent Alphabet. Now the company is

adding the iconic boxed cookies to the more mundane drugstore offerings, FedEx packages and locally-made pastries, tacos and cold brew coffees it's been hauling to a thinly populated area of residential subdivisions since 2019. Wing said it began talking to local Girl Scout troops because they've been having a harder time selling cookies during the pandemic, when fewer people

are out and about. It's also the latest attempt to build public enthusiasm for futuristic drone delivery as Wing competes against Amazon, Walmart, UPS and others to overcome the many technical and regulatory challenges of flying packages over neighborhoods. Federal officials started rolling out new rules in early April that will allow operators to fly small drones over people and at night, potentially giving a boost to commercial use of the machines. Most drones will need to be equipped so they can be identified remotely by law enforcement officials. □

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

9		7				4		6
			3		6			
	4						2	
	8			1			9	
			7		4			
	6			2			8	
	2						3	
			9		5			
8		4				9		5

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Q&A: Michael B. Jordan on protest, power & ‘Without Remorse’

By JAKE COYLE

AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Michael B. Jordan’s power on screen has taken many forms. His heavyweight force in “Creed.” His capacity to inspire change as Bryan Stevenson in “Just Mercy.” His raw fury in “Black Panther.” But Jordan’s potency reaches new, muscular heights in “Without Remorse” a Tom Clancy adaptation that recasts Jordan as a globe-trotting action star. The film (which debuts Friday on Amazon Prime Video) is an updated origin story of Navy SEAL John Clark, Clancy’s best-known character outside of Jack Ryan. Jordan is hoping it spawns a franchise. The project has been around Hollywood for decades; Keanu Reeves and Tom Hardy are among those who have previously flirted with it. But Jordan saw the possibility to not only do a big-budget action thriller and perform a lot of his own stunts, but to retaylor the film to today. He’s a producer on the film via his company, Outlier Society Productions, a leading force in making Hollywood more inclusive. Jordan spent much of the past year quarantined with his family and friends, a time he says has that has been reflective.

“The last few years I’ve been blessed to have a kind of non-stop career,” says Jordan, speaking by phone from Los Angeles. “I kind of had a moment to look at myself and family, spend time with my nephew — things that I probably wouldn’t have had as much time to do if I was running from one production to another.”

But after the pandemic put a slight pause on one of the movies’ biggest stars, Jordan is eager to embark on a new chapter. He recently filmed Denzel Washington’s “A Journal for Jordan.” He’s prepping his directorial debut with “Creed III.”

The 34-year-old spoke with The Associated Press the day after the verdict in the Derek Chauvin trial. Remarks have been edited for brevity and clarity.



This image released by Amazon shows Jamie Bell, left, and Michael B. Jordan in a scene from “Tom Clancy’s Without Remorse.”

Associated Press

AP: Last summer at protests following the death of George Floyd, you challenged Hollywood to commit to Black hiring. Have you seen any progress?

Jordan: From the projects that I’ve been involved with, I’ve seen a response to that. I’m not in the weeds with every production across Hollywood but I think there was a significant or meaningful response from the industry on certain levels to be held accountable. But there’s a lot of work to be done. We’re not content with things we have or things that we see at the moment.

AP: Has anything about the past year changed your priorities?

Jordan: I went through a rollercoaster of emotions. The pandemic, the protests, this steady increase of police brutality and murders — it’s been tough, man. You have a moment where things went our way yesterday and then hours later, you have another one. This past year has seen so much of that. Recharging my batteries was something that I didn’t know I needed as much as I did. After taking that break, I feel more energized and prepared for the work to come — and that’s in all areas. When it comes to being present for my community, my culture, for my business; in front of the camera, behind the

camera; in the streets, in my home. It’s given me an opportunity to be a better version of myself moving forward. I’m motivated. I’m recharged. I’m ready for all tasks at hand.

AP: In “Fruitvale Station,” playing Oscar Grant, you acted out a version of a scene that keeps replaying.

Jordan: When you’re Black and brown, it’s something that can become a reality any day. Yeah, I had an opportunity to shine a light on a story, on a young man who had his life taken away from him by the hands of law enforcement. When we shot that movie, I guess it wasn’t being seen as much as it is right now. The volume of what’s been reported has increased, it’s more a part of the popular conversation. But it’s a lot. I think solidarity amongst our community and culture is at the highest point that I’ve experienced. It’s driving us closer together. And people unified is a powerful thing.

AP: Do you ever find it difficult to balance any responsibility you feel and your own interests? Do you sometimes just want to make a movie without worrying about larger issues?

Jordan: I just made one! “Without Remorse” and “Journal for Jordan.” I like all types of movies. From action thrillers to mov-

ies with a purpose. I got “Creed” coming up. I’ve been blessed to have a healthy balance. It allows me to have that comfortable balance between entertainment and activism. That’s life, right? Trying to find a balance. You have moments in your life where you’ve got to do things for yourself, you’ve got to do things that feed your soul. And you’ve got to do things that feed your community, so you know the person looking at you in the morning in the mirror. If you can find a way to balance all those things and be successful and leave an impact — and leave the world a better place. I think making people think is the power of cinema.

AP: “Without Remorse” had been in development hell for years. What drew you to it?

Jordan: I’m a gamer. I love playing videogames. I grew up playing (Tom Clancy adaptations) “Rainbow Six” and “Ghost Recon” before I even got introduced to the films. Man, I got an opportunity to play a character I used to envision myself playing, that I spent hours upon hours (laughs) in my room playing. Being able to step into the Tom Clancy universe and do an action movie where I do my own stunts. I was a kid in the candy store.

AP: You’ve talked about in-

jecting yourself into a role like a Trojan horse. Was there anything especially that you wanted to bring to “Without Remorse”?

Jordan: It was a great collaboration between the studio, the producers, the director to create an origin story. It was cool to see a character that just is. There’s no extra “This character is Black because of this and that.” It’s a movie about a guy, know what I mean?

AP: Like another upcoming film of yours, a new “Thomas Crown Affair,” your character wasn’t originally written as Black and had previously been played by white actors (Willem Dafoe and Liev Schreiber). Do you give any significance to that?

Jordan: There’s a business behind this, as well. A lot of people don’t understand the nuances of how movies get made — what (intellectual property) is at what studio, what IP is available, the value of a reboot versus doing something without that title. There’s a lot of different factors to consider when you remake a movie or you do a movie. People would be surprised that race is very low on the totem pole when it comes to making some of those decisions. A lot of people speculate on these movie choices but what I pay attention to is: I really like the movie. The character’s interesting. It’s entertaining and I’m going to have fun making it. And representation is important. Somebody like myself playing a character like that in a world like that is also very progressive and entertaining. It’s a nuanced decision to develop movies like that. Sometimes it’s not that simple. Other times, it’s not that complicated, either. □

9	3	7	8	5	2	4	1	6
1	5	2	3	4	6	8	7	9
6	4	8	1	9	7	5	2	3
4	8	5	6	1	3	7	9	2
2	9	3	7	8	4	6	5	1
7	6	1	5	2	9	3	8	4
5	2	9	4	6	8	1	3	7
3	1	6	9	7	5	2	4	8
8	7	4	2	3	1	9	6	5

Difficulty Level ★★★

Carmouche to be 1st Black jockey in Kentucky Derby since '13

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**
AP Sports Writer

Long before Kendrick Carmouche started riding horses growing up in Louisiana, Black jockeys were synonymous with the sport. Black riders were atop 13 of the 15 horses in the first Kentucky Derby in 1875 and won 15 of the first 28 editions of the race. Everything has changed since: Carmouche on Saturday will be the first Black jockey in the Kentucky Derby

since 2013 and is just one of a handful over the past century. Carmouche is now one of the few remaining Black jockeys in the U.S. Much like Marlon St. Julien in 2000, Patrick Husbands in 2006 and Kevin Krigger in 2013, his presence in horse racing's biggest event is a reminder of how the industry marginalized Black jockeys to the point they all but disappeared from the sport. "As a Black rider getting to



This photo provided by NYRA shows Kendrick Carmouche smiling in the paddock at Aqueduct Racetrack in the Queens borough of New York on Jan. 24, 2020.

Associated Press



Alexander Zverev from Germany returns the ball to Ricardas Berankis of Lithuania during their second round tennis match at the ATP tennis tournament in Munich, Germany, Wednesday, April 28, 2021.

Associated Press

Zverev beats Berankis to begin bid for 3rd Munich Open title

MUNICH (AP) — Alexander Zverev began his bid for a third Munich Open title by beating Ricardas Berankis 6-2, 6-4 Wednesday in the second round. The top-seeded Zverev, who won the tournament in 2017 and 2018, hit six aces, saved three of the five break points he faced and converted five of his own against his 89th-ranked opponent. The sixth-ranked German will next face Ilya Ivashka in the quarterfinals. The 107th-ranked player from Belarus overcame American qualifier Mackenzie McDonald 6-7 (7), 6-1, 6-2. McDonald had upset sixth-seeded Dusan Lajovic on Tuesday. Also, second-seeded Casper Ruud defeated Pablo Cuevas 6-3, 6-2 and John Millman progressed after opponent Guido Pella retired with injury while trailing 6-4, 2-0. □

the Kentucky Derby, I hope it inspires a lot of people because my road wasn't easy to get there and I never quit," Carmouche said. "What I've been wanting all my career is to inspire people and make people know that it's not about color. It's about how successful you are in life and how far you can fight to get to that point." Carmouche is a success story in his own right. He is the son of a jockey who has won more than 3,400 races and earned \$118 million since beginning to ride professionally in 2000. He came back from a broken leg three years ago and set himself up for his first Kentucky Derby mount by riding 72-1 long shot Bourbonic to victory in the Wood Memorial on April 3. Bourbonic will leave from the 20th post in Saturday's race at Churchill Downs. He's also a rarity in a sport now dominated by jockeys from Latin America. "Obviously there haven't been many in recent decades, but if you go back to the early years of the Derby, the late 1800s, early 1900s, Black jockeys dominated the Kentucky Derby," NBC Sports analyst Randy Moss said. "Guys like Isaac Murphy and Jimmy Winkfield." Carmouche joins St. Julien as the only U.S.-born Black jockeys in the Derby since

1921, which was even then long after the era dominated by Murphy, Winkfield and others. Chris Goodlett, a historian at the Kentucky Derby Museum, cited a combination of Jim Crow laws and segregation in the U.S., intimidation by white riders and decisions by racing officials, owners and trainers for the decline of Black jockeys in the early 20th century. One example was white counterparts riding Winfield into the rail at Harlem Race Track outside Chicago and injuring him and his horse. "Consequently, white trainers and owners would be (more) reluctant to ride Black jockeys on their horses due to instances like that," Goodlett said. "We see it also just from an administrative point of view, as well: fewer licenses being issued to Black jockeys, sometimes not issued at all." Brien Bouyea, communications director for the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame, said many Black jockeys left for Europe because of better working conditions and never returned. Manny Ycaza came from Panama and blazed a trail for Latin American jockeys, who used riding schools and other factors that changed on-track demographics. Along the way, participa-

tion by Black people in the Kentucky Derby ebbed and flowed with significant contributions along the way, including grooms Will Harbut with Man O'War in 1920 and Eddie Sweat with Secretariat in 1973 and trainer Hank Allen with Northern Wolf in 1989. Harbut's great grandson, Greg Harbut, co-owned 2020 Derby runner Neckar Island and helped found the Ed Brown Society, named after the 19th century Black jockey and trainer to further diversify racing. Husbands was well-aware of his unique place in history when he rode Seaside Retreat in the 2006 Derby and feels a connection to Carmouche this year because "the stepping stone that he's doing for his culture is the same stuff I was trying to do for my culture." Knowing the history of Black jockeys, Husbands is inspired by Carmouche's journey. "When I saw the interview with him two years ago, it bring water to my eyes in terms of how his wife is white, he's Black and he's a little bit scared of his kids on his streets," Husbands said. "It brought me home because he said in this interview that no racetrack was being prejudiced to him. ... Now he's coming in to ride in the Kentucky Derby. It's like he's shining a light out there." □

Casey goes for 3-peat at Innisbrook against top-heavy field

AP Golf Writer

PALM HARBOR, Fla. (AP) —

Paul Casey is going for his third straight victory at the Valspar Championship, a feat difficult enough that only eight times in the last 40 years has a player won the same tournament at least three times in a row. It didn't take long for Casey to take a stab at who else was on the list.

"Tiger, Tiger, Tiger?" he said. Now repeat. Tiger Woods owns six of those eight occasions. He won three in a row at Firestone twice (1999-2001 and 2005-07), along with the Memorial (1999-2001), and he won four in a row at Bay Hill (2000-03) and Torrey Pines (2005-08). The other was a World Golf Championship that was held at three courses (Harding Park in 2005, The Grove in England in 2006, Doral in 2007).

The other two players were Stuart Appleby at Kapalua and Steve Stricker at the John Deere Classic. It's no small task.

Now throw in a field that includes Dustin Johnson and Justin Thomas, the top two players in the world, along with Patrick Reed to round out three players from the top 10. "I've never had a three-peat as a professional, and I feel like



Dustin Johnson watches his drive down the ninth fairway during the final round of the RBC Heritage golf tournament in Hilton Head Island, S.C., Sunday, April 18, 2021.

Associated Press

the pressure is not on me," Casey said. "We've got Justin Thomas and guys like that playing this week, and the focus is going to be on them. So I feel like I'm kind of in a sweet spot and raring to go."

Casey has won three in a row as an amateur, and that wasn't easy either. He won the Pac-10 championship three straight times while at Arizona State. The second time, he shot 60 in the final round.

The Copperhead course

at Innisbrook is regarded as among the best tournament courses in Florida, relying on such un-Florida characteristics as elevation and bending, tree-lined fairways. Yes, there's water, but it comes into play on only a half-dozen holes.

Casey is a premier ball-striker on the PGA Tour, which explains why he has fared so well at Innisbrook.

"When he's on, it's really impressive," Thomas said. "The sound his ball makes when it comes off his irons

... it's a short, compact move. It's fun to play with and it's fun to watch."

That doesn't mean it's easy. When he won in 2018, Casey rallied from a five-shot deficit and still didn't have victory secured until Woods failed to make a 35-foot birdie putt on the final hole. The following year, he had a one-shot lead over Johnson in conditions so tough Johnson didn't make a birdie in the final round. He won by one shot over Jason Kokrak and Lou-

is Oosthuizen. The Valspar Championship took one on the chin like no other PGA Tour event last year. The entire tournament structure was in place and it was four days away from the start of tournament week when the PGA Tour shut down golf because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I'm excited to be finally back, and I'm sure everybody else is, too," Casey said.

Like other PGA Tour events, the Valspar Championship is allowing limited spectators — 30% of available capacity, though no one has been able to define what full capacity is at a golf tournament.

Johnson is hoping he can piece together all parts of his game and contend, which he hasn't seriously done since he went into the final round at Riviera two shots out of the lead. He shot 1-over 72 and finished in a tie for eighth, six shots behind. That was two months ago. It also was his last top 10.

Five straight tournaments out of the top 10 is his longest drought since the final eight tournaments of 2019, when he was struggling with his left knee and had surgery at the end of the season. □

AP Source: WR Antonio Brown returning to Bucs on 1-year deal



Tampa Bay Buccaneers wide receiver Antonio Brown reacts after making a catch against the Kansas City Chiefs during the first half of the NFL Super Bowl 55 football game in Tampa, Fla., in this Sunday, Feb. 7, 2021, file photo.

Associated Press

By FRED GOODALL

AP Sports Writer

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Receiver Antonio Brown has agreed to return to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on a one-year contract that could be worth up to

\$6.5 million, including incentives, a person familiar with the deal told The Associated Press.

The person spoke on the condition of anonymity Wednesday because the agreement, which in-

cludes a \$2 million signing bonus and a little more than \$3 million guaranteed, had not been announced by the reigning Super Bowl champions. NFL Network was first to report the deal.

The Bucs were already assured of returning all 22 starters from their 31-9 victory over the Kansas City Chiefs in the NFL title game in February. Bringing back Brown ensures Tom Brady will pursue an eighth Super Bowl ring with the entire "band" of offensive playmakers assembled around the 43-year-old quarterback last season.

General manager Jason Licht made good on a promise to keep the team together by placing the franchise tag on receiver

Chris Godwin, signing linebackers Shaquil Barrett and Lavonte David to multi-year contracts, and bringing back tight end Rob Gronkowski, running back Leonard Fournette and defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh on one-year deals.

Brady and left tackle Donovan Smith contributed to the effort by signing salary-cap-friendly contract extensions that freed money to help Licht get it done. The agreement with Brown comes after the receiver, who joined the Bucs midway through last season after serving an eight-game suspension for violating the NFL's personal conduct policy, settled a civil lawsuit filed against Brown by a former trainer.

Licht was asked last week if Brown resolving the civil dispute would improve the chances of the 32-year-old receiver coming back. "We've had discussions through the offseason, and as you can tell we've put an emphasis on bringing back players from last year that contributed to our success, and he would be no different," the GM said. "We'll continue to have talks and see where it goes."

A four-time All-Pro, Brown had 45 receptions for 483 yards and four touchdowns in eight regular-season games in 2020. He caught a TD pass in the Super Bowl, capping a post-season in which he had eight catches for 81 yards and two TDs. □